

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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A CONTAGIOUS CRAZE

A newspaper published in a large city remarks that the craze for unique ideas has caught on with the church there as well as theater goers. There is certainly a uniqueness about the comparison, and a sort of revelation of tendency. There is a wide gulf between the idea of entertainment and the idea of worship, as pertaining to the legitimate service of the church, and there is in some quarters a tendency to cross this gulf, and accomplish that vast "come down" from the divine heights of a preached Gospel, a proclamation of pardon and redemption, a proclamation of eternal life, a ministration of comfort to the sorrowing ones, a place, a day, an hour, where God meets with men, and men and women appear before God,—a sad and humiliating descent from these serene and sublime heights to the gew-gaws, and the sounding brass, and tinkling cymbals of mere entertainment. Harmless entertainment is all right in its proper place, but in respect to the House of God, in respect to his church, there is only one word for all forms of entertainment, be their ultimate purpose what it may, and that word is: "Take these things hence." For the sake of all that is holy there is enough froth and fiddle sticks in the world, and enough room in the world for froth and fiddle sticks, and the threshold of the church should be held too sacred for their irreverent and presumptuous invasion.

TOO THIN

An exchange says that the prevailing styles this spring demand that the fashionable woman be thin and stately, and that she is doing her best to conform to them. This seems to be in accord with the fitness of things. For instance, the fashionable life suggests an intellectual thinness. The study of the latest styles, the toniest cut, the newest manners, the up-to-date fad, and all the important vacuities of swelldom, is not particularly adapted to intellectual culture, or calculated to develop breadth of mind. In this field of apparently great popular interest brains is one of the nonessentials, and it is

for this reason that the usual presentment of the dude represents him with an inadequately developed brain pan.

Then again the fashionable person usually incarnates the idea of spiritual thinness. Ordinarily a robust Christian would find himself in dreadfully bad form in swell society. As a clubman he would be ridiculous. As a vitalized apparatus for the itinerant advertisement of gorgeous gowns and priceless gems, she would be handicapped with a distressing excess of embonpoint. In these brilliant situations spiritual thinness is the thing to be desired, and the fashionable are exhorted to take such exercises as will conduce to this end. These exercises are said to be available and effective. There are other directions in which thinness accompanies, if it does not promote, fashionable successes, but we will leave something to the imagination of the reader. To our way of thinking it is all a little *too* thin. Physical causes over which we may have no control may give us a thin body, but above all things, and particularly above the froth of the fashionable life, let us earnestly desire to have a fat mind and a fat soul. "The liberal soul," it is said, "shall be made fat," and "the righteous shall be fat and flourishing." There is no calamity like leanness of soul, and there is no wealth like that of a soul possessed with abounding and inexhaustible intellectual and spiritual treasures, such as are within reach of all earnest natures.

SUCCESS IN DEFEAT

It is said that Washington could get more out of his defeats than his enemies could get out of their victories and military critics remark concerning the southern general, Joseph E. Johnstone, that his retreats were always exceedingly dangerous to the opposing army. That is a rare faculty which enables its possessor to turn defeat into victory, and while it is greatly valuable and we should say indispensable in the ordinary battles of life, in our spiritual warfare it is priceless beyond conception. Let us learn how to give our soul enemies the Parthian shot.